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Good afternoon everyone and welcome to today's webinar on the 2021 CISE BPC Solicitation. My name is Allyson Kennedy, and I am a program officer for education and workforce in CISE. I will be providing an overview of the BPC program today and then I will be joined by my colleagues Jeff, Fay, and Michelle to answer any questions you may have.

General housekeeping, you are in listen only mode; however, you can submit questions through the Q and A function. This webinar is being recorded and will be available, along with a transcript and this slide deck, on the webinar event page where you registered.

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The motivation for the 2021 iteration of the BPC program solicitation is to increase the number and diversity of domestic students who are receiving post-secondary degrees in computing disciplines with a focus on groups who are underrepresented in CISE fields including women, blacks and African Americans, Hispanics, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and People with disabilities.

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As you can see in these two graphs, the percentage of groups majoring in CISE fields remains low, especially relative to their proportions in undergraduate degree programs and the general population.

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With this solicitation, CISE aims to support projects that will develop, implement, and evaluate innovative models, frameworks and strategies for increasing the inclusion of these groups throughout education pathways from K12 all the way through the computing workforce. Overall, the goal is for BPC projects to create transformational change and establish more inclusive organizational structures and practices.

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With that in mind, all proposals for this program should have the potential for national impact. That could mean development of new practice that can be widely deployed or widely deploying an existing practice to reach more people. Either way, activities should focus on both quality and quantity of opportunities afforded to participants. While implementation is the main focus of this program, projects may also include complementary, focused research components that could contribute to our knowledge base about BPC.

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The solicitation has 4 categories of funding. New alliances can receive up to 750K/per year over 3 years, while existing alliance can apply for an extension for up to 1.2 million/per year over 5 years. Demonstration projects, which are more narrow in scope can receive up to a total of 300K over 2 years. Finally, BPC supplements can be submitted for any existing CISE Core research award and that amount must less than 20% of the original award or up to 200K.

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Now let's talk about some of the specifics of each category, starting with alliances.

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Collectively, both new and existing alliances should serve in three key roles. First, they will be testbeds that develop, deploy, and evaluate interventions for BPC. They should be national resources that collect, vet, and disseminate best and promising practices, and lastly they should serve as a locus, along with the network of peer alliances for the broader computing community.

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Proposals for new and existing alliances have a number of key components that should be included in the Project Description.

The project goals and outcomes should be clearly articulated, and the proposal should demonstrate recruitment and retainment strategies for intended groups who are underrepresented in CISE

Proposals should include an implementation plan that describes how the work could align with existing activities or efforts and a creative and strategic plan to be built on a strong research base with plan for broad dissemination.

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Alliances with partnerships should clearly outline the evidence of collaboration, and demonstrate the commitment of all partners involved to the project goals, experience in addressing underrepresentation in a holistic manner, and plans for sustainability of the partnership itself.

All proposals need a strong evaluation plan in which the instruments and/or metrics that will guide the project's progress and impact are clearly described.

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The proposal's sustainability plan must describe mechanisms to further the work either through collaborations, or additional funding sources.

Lastly, all NSF proposals must include a management plan that details the organizational structures, mechanisms, and responsibilities of the project team including all senior personnel.

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Currently, there are 8 BPC alliances; which operate across multiple stages of the academic pathway and address one or several intended groups who are underrepresented. Demonstration projects and supplements are encouraged to use these as resources and to collaborate when possible and appropriate.

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For existing alliances seeking extensions, there are a few additional criteria to be included in the proposal's project description. In the project goals and outcomes section, existing alliances must demonstrate the extent of the "alliance" meaning the scope and degree of the alliance's national impact and effectiveness at BP of intended groups who are underrepresented in CISE. They must also provide information about collaborators and partnerships with other alliances and/or

organizations, and plans for sustainability through outside support mechanisms. Importantly, they must showcase their contributions to the larger broadening participation community and the stability of their organizational structure.

Note that the higher budget of allies implies a substantially higher bar for national impact and effectiveness.

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Demonstration projects are more narrow in scope than Alliances.

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These projects should be small scale interventions of BPC focused a single underrepresented community, a single point in the academic pathway, or a single impediment to full participation in computing. These are not meant to serve as travel grants or fellowship programs. Like Alliances, Demonstration Projects should include clearly described project goals and outcomes, as well as strong implementation and evaluation plans. Ultimately demonstration projects should contribute evidence-based findings to the body of knowledge on teaching and learning in diverse student populations.

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Finally, there is an opportunity for existing CISE Research awards to apply for a BPC supplement.

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Only Medium and Large awards in CISE core programs qualify for BPC supplements. These supplements should either extend the reach of a project's current BPC activities to more institutions or participants or coordinate and/or institutionalize those activities within a department.

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I'll close with some other key pieces of information. You can view the full BPC solicitation at that website listed there and I have also dropped it into the chat.

<https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2021/nsf21571/nsf21571.htm>

Alliance and Demonstration project proposals are due by 5pm your time where your time is on June 14, of this year.

For supplements, you should contact the Program officer as well as the BPC team using that alias by May 17th.

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With that, we will move into our Q and A session, so I will ask Jeff, Michelle, and Fay to unmute and turn their cameras on.